

definitely established that some of these birds are still nesting in our state after the first of September when the hunting season for them is opened. Regardless of our attitude toward the open season of this species, if we call ourselves conservationists, we surely must approve of delaying the opening date for at least two weeks. By expressing our opinion on the subject through letters to the governor, the Conservation Department and to our assemblymen, we will eventually get results.

Our letters should be brief and to the point, and it is not at all necessary for them to be formal. They can be written on scratch paper with a pencil, but it is most essential that we be sure of our facts in every statement we make. If we are among those who insist on advancing the alibi of "too busy" we can buy a dozen postcards and mail one as occasions arise when we wish to express approval or disapproval of movements directly affecting our wildlife or the habitats upon which it is dependent.

Our sincerity may well be questioned when we say we love birds or flowers and the other children of Mother Nature, if we do nothing for their preservation. It is our personal responsibility, and "it is later than we think!"

809 Michigan Avenue, Evanston, Illinois

The Purple Martins Need Your Help

THE PURPLE MARTINS which gather each fall at Montrose Beach on the Chicago lake front just before they leave for the south need protection — the kind that members of the Illinois Audubon Society can give. Some cruel and uninformed persons have been stoning and destroying these valuable birds as they roost in great flocks shortly before Labor Day in north Lincoln Park.

This fact has been called to the attention of the Board of Directors by Mrs. Genevieve Benson, who has acted as unofficial protector, warden and teacher during the gathering period of the martins.

The Society has written the Chicago Park District, some civic organizations, and various bird clubs in the city to obtain cooperation in the protection of these birds. The objective is to obtain the volunteer services of several interested bird lovers who would act as unofficial wardens for the Society and patrol the Montrose Beach area for one to two hours at least one evening a week during this period. The approach to anyone found stoning the birds would be simple — they would be told that they are destroying valuable song birds, that they are committing a federal offense, and that birds generally are of immense value to mankind. Here is an opportunity to enjoy the parks at sunset, to mix with people, to practice bird-watching and to teach others the value of our wildlife.

Organizations become most effective and useful, more important to their community and more widely known, by entering an area of struggle. If you have always wanted to do some work for the Society, protect the songbirds, and share your enthusiasm for birdwatching with others, here is your opportunity. You can contact Mrs. Benson at 4540 N. Magnolia Ave., Chicago 40, or myself for further information.

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